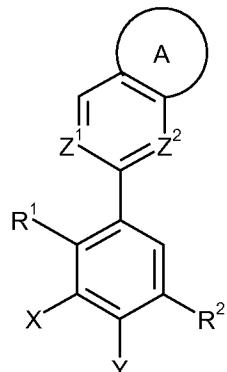


Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (I):

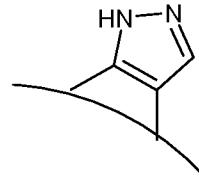


(I)

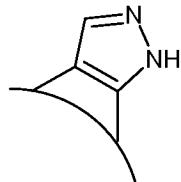
wherein

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is

selected from



or



optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C₁-₆alkyl, -(CH₂)_kC₃-₇cycloalkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, -(CH₂)_kOR³, -(CH₂)_kCO₂R³, -(CH₂)_kNR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kCONR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kNHCOR³, -(CH₂)_kSO₂NR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kNHSO₂R³, -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing nitrogen optionally substituted by C₁-₂alkyl or -(CH₂)_kCO₂R³, and a 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by C₁-₂alkyl; or

A is a fused 5 membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is substituted by -BR⁶, and ; or

A is the heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR⁷, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁷ and C₁-₆alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or

A is a fused 5 membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is substituted by $-(CH_2)_n$ heterocycll wherein the heterocycll is a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen, sulfur and nitrogen optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from oxo, C₁₋₆alkyl, $-(CH_2)_p$ phenyl, -OR⁷, $-(CH_2)_pCO_2R^7$, -NR⁷R⁸ and -CONR⁷R⁸, and

the A heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR⁷, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁷ and C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy; or

A is a fused 5 membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen which heteroaryl ring is substituted by $-(CH_2)_q$ aryl or $-(CH_2)_q$ heteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C₁₋₆alkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, -OR⁹, $-(CH_2)_rCO_2R^{10}$, -NR⁹R¹⁰, $-(CH_2)_rCONR^9R^{10}$, -NHCOR⁹, -SO₂NR⁹R¹⁰, -NHSO₂R⁹ and -S(O)_sR⁹, and

the heteroaryl ring is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from -OR⁷, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, -CO₂R⁷ and C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

R¹ is selected from methyl and chloro;

R² is selected from -NH-CO-R¹¹ and -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹²;

R³ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by up to two OH groups, $-(CH_2)_k$ C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_k$ phenyl optionally substituted by R¹³ and/or R¹⁴ and $-(CH_2)_k$ heteroaryl optionally substituted by R¹³ and/or R¹⁴,

R⁴ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R³ and R⁴, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵;

R⁵ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by up to three halogen atoms, C₂₋₆alkenyl optionally substituted by phenyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three R¹³ and/or R¹⁴ groups, and phenyl optionally substituted by R¹³ and/or R¹⁴;

R⁶ is a C₃₋₆alkyl group substituted by at least two substituents independently selected from -OR¹⁶, -NR¹⁶R¹⁷, -CO₂R¹⁶, -CONR¹⁶R¹⁷, -NHCOR¹⁶ and -NHSO₂R¹⁶;

R⁷ and R⁸ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl;

R⁹ is selected from hydrogen, $-(CH_2)_u$ C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_u$ heterocycll, $-(CH_2)_u$ aryl, and C₁₋₆alkyl optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from -OR¹⁸ and -NR¹⁸R¹⁹,

R¹⁰ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R⁹ and R¹⁰, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵;

R¹¹ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, -(CH₂)_t-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, -(CH₂)_vheteroaryl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹, and -(CH₂)_vphenyl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹;

R¹² is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, -CONHR²², phenyl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by R²⁰ and/or R²¹;

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are each independently selected from halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, nitro, C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, -CONR²²R²³, -COR²⁴, -CO₂R²⁴, and heteroaryl, or

R¹³ and R¹⁴ are linked to form a fused 5-membered heterocyclyl ring containing one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵, or a fused heteroaryl ring;

R¹⁵ is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

R¹⁶, R¹⁷, R¹⁸ and R¹⁹ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl;

R²⁰ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, -(CH₂)_t-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl, -CONR²²R²³, -NHCOR²³, halogen, -CN, -(CH₂)_wNR²⁵R²⁶, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R²¹ groups, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R²¹ groups;

R²¹ is selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, C₁₋₆alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and -(CH₂)_wNR²⁵R²⁶;

R²² and R²³ are each independently selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R²² and R²³, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵, wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two C₁₋₆alkyl groups;

R²⁴ is C₁₋₆alkyl;

R²⁵ is selected from hydrogen, C₁₋₆alkyl and -(CH₂)_t-C₃₋₇cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C₁₋₆alkyl,

R²⁶ is selected from hydrogen and C₁₋₆alkyl, or

R²⁵ and R²⁶, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R¹⁵;

B is selected from a bond, oxygen, NH and S(O)_X;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and halogen; Z¹ is N or N=O and Z² is CH,
Z¹ is CH and Z² is N or N=O, or Z¹ and Z² are each independently selected from N or N=O;
k, m and w are each independently selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;
n, q, r, s, t and x are each independently selected from 0, 1 and 2; and
u and v are each independently selected from 0 and 1;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable [[derivative]] salt thereof.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, halogen, -(CH₂)_kNR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kNHCOR³, -(CH₂)_kNHSO₂R³ and -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵, or A is substituted by -(CH₂)_qaryl wherein the aryl is optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogen, cyano, -OR⁹ and -(CH₂)_rCO₂R¹⁰.

4. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is substituted by -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵ or -(CH₂)_qaryl wherein the aryl is substituted by C₁₋₆alkyl or halogen.

5. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R¹ is methyl.

6. (previously presented) A compound according to claim wherein R² is -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹².

7. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 1 wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

8. (original) A compound according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore defined with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 58, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

9. (Currently amended) A compound selected from:
N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{1-[(1-methylethyl)sulfonyl]-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-5-[1-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-[1-(2-thienylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-[1-(cyclopropylsulfonyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]-5-fluoro-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-[1-(3-methylphenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-5-(1-phenyl-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl)benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-[1-(2-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*c*]pyridin-5-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;

3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methyl-*N*-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide;

3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-pyrazolo[4,3-*c*]pyridin-6-yl]-4-methyl-*N*-(1-methyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide;

3-[3-(acetylamino)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]-*N*-cyclopropyl-4-methylbenzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{3-[(2-methylpropanoyl)amino]-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-[3-(propanoylamino)-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-6-yl]benzamide; and

N-(6-{5-[(cyclopropylamino)carbonyl]-2-methylphenyl}-1*H*-pyrazolo[3,4-*b*]pyridin-3-yl)-2-thiophenecarboxamide;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative salt thereof.

10. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative salt thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

11. (cancelled)

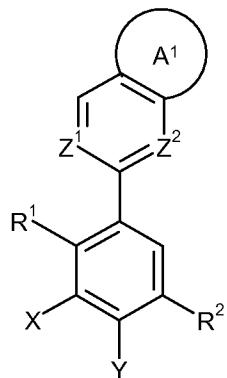
12. (withdrawn) A compound as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

13.(withdrawn) A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

14. (cancelled)

15.(Currently amended/Withdrawn) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) according to as claimed in claim 1, or a pharmaceutically acceptable ~~derivative~~ salt thereof, which comprises

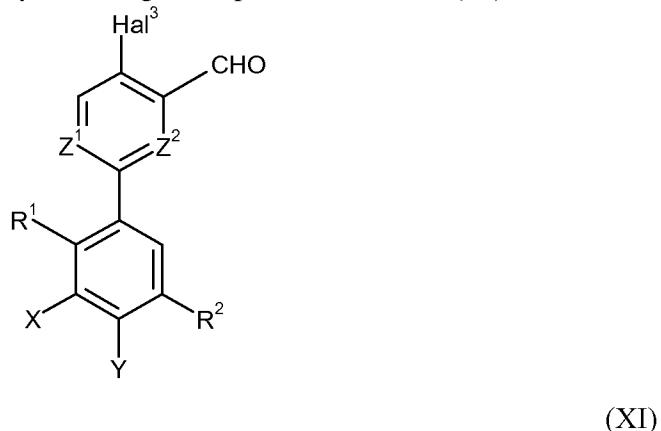
(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

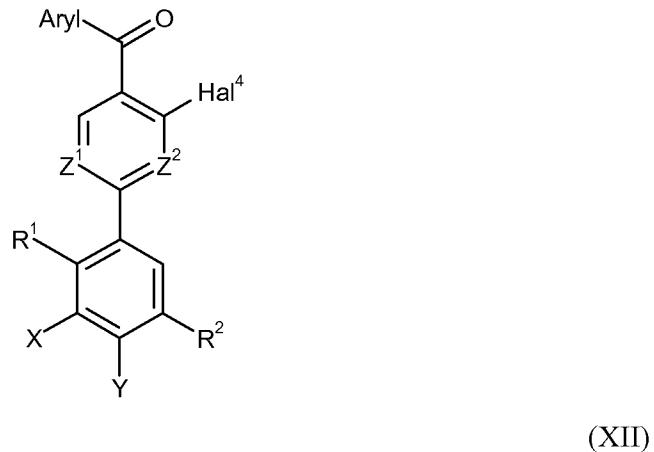
in which R¹, R², X, Y, Z¹ and Z² are as defined in claim 1 and A¹ is an unsubstituted fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing one or two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen with a halide derivative,
in the presence of a base;

(b) when A is a fused pyrazolyl, reacting a compound of formula (XI)



in which R¹, R², X, Y, Z¹ and Z² are as hereinbefore defined and Hal³ is halogen, in particular chlorine, with a hydrazine derivative;

(c) when A is a fused pyrazolyl substituted by aryl, reacting a compound of formula (XII)



in which R¹, R², X, Y, Z¹ and Z² are as hereinbefore defined and Hal⁴ is halogen, in particular chlorine, with a hydrazine derivative; or

(d) final stage modification of one compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 to give another compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

16. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim [[2]] 1 wherein A is substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C₁₋₄alkyl, halogen, -(CH₂)_kNR³R⁴, -(CH₂)_kNHCOR³, -(CH₂)_kNHSO₂R³ and -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵, or A is substituted by -(CH₂)_qaryl wherein the aryl is optionally substituted by one or

two substituents independently selected from C₁₋₆alkyl, halogen, cyano, -OR⁹ and -(CH₂)_rCO₂R¹⁰.

17. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein A is substituted by -(CH₂)_kSO₂(CH₂)_mR⁵ or -(CH₂)_qaryl wherein the aryl is substituted by C₁₋₆alkyl or halogen.

18. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R¹ is methyl.

19. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein R² is -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹².

20. (previously presented) A compound according to claim 16 wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

21. (New) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z¹ is N or N=O and Z² is CH.

22. (New) A compound according to claim 1 wherein Z¹ is CH and Z² is N or N=O.

23. (New) A compound according to claim 1 wherein R² is -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹².

24. (New) A compound according to claim 21 wherein R² is -CO-NH-(CH₂)_t-R¹².